

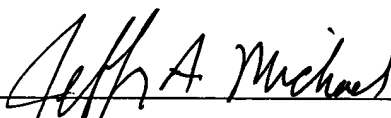
REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9, 13-19, 23 and 27-28 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 6, 10, 20 and 24 are objected to as being independent on a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7-8, 11-12, 21-22 and 25-26 are objected to as being dependent upon objected to claims 6, 10, 20 and 24.

Applicants have herein canceled claims 1-5, 9, 13-19, 23 and 27-28, and have rewritten claims 6, 10, 20 and 24 in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 6-8, 10-12, 20-22 and 24-26 are believed to be allowable. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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